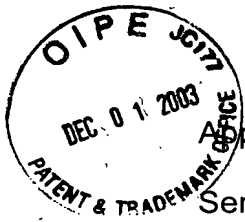


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12/12/03
[Signature]



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Mitsuhiko YOSHIMURA et al.
Serial No.: 09/803,149
Filed: March 12, 2001
For: MULTI-DATABASE SYSTEM
Group: 2171
Examiner: E. Leroux

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DEC 04 2003

Technology Center 2100

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 1, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 29, 2003, the period for reply thereto being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time to expire on November 29, 2003, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks being filed concurrently with the filing of an RCE.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks are included following the amendments.